

Rural District Council

OF

TENTERDEN.

ANNUAL REPORT


FOR

1909.

BY

JAMES SCOTT TEW, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer for Health.



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Centerden Rural District.

AREA AND POPULATION.

	Area in Statute Acres.		Inhabited Houses.		Population.		
	Land and Inland Water.	Inland Water only.	1881	1891	1881	1891	1901
1. Appledore.....	3908	17	134	129	648	595	524
2. Biddenden	7191	11	272	246	1352	1362	1058
3. High Halden	3751	2	127	115	637	646	507
4. Kennardington.....	2163	14	41	40	188	194	194
5. Newenden	1046	6	32	34	152	149	126
6. Rolvenden	5753	12	272	269	1286	1194	1065
7. Stone-cum-Ebony ...	4839	41	99	83	561	415	341
8. Wittersham	3625	23	179	153	886	803	658
9. Woodchurch.....	7001	4	249	247	1240	1179	1050
	38377	130	1405	1316	6950	6537	5523

The **Population** of the Tenterden Rural District estimated to the middle of 1909, was 4,806, showing a decrease of 717 since the census of 1901, and of 81 on the estimated population of 1908.

The number of registered births amounted to 126, including 51 of males and 75 of females, and giving a **Birth-rate** of 26·2 per 1,000 of population as compared with 26·1 in the previous year, and 24·5 in 1907.

Seventy-four deaths were returned consisting of 27 of males and 47 of females. To these must be added 6 deaths of residents which occurred outside the district, viz :—at the Union Workhouse, making a nett total of 80 deaths.

The **Death-rate** was 16·6 per 1,000 of the population, as against 14·1 in the previous year, and 14·4 in 1907.

The **Principal Epidemic Diseases** include Small-pox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping-cough, Fever (including the three principal forms: Typhus, Enteric or Typhoid Fever, and Pyrexia of uncertain origin), and Diarrhœa.

Only two deaths were caused by any of these diseases, viz:—1 by Diphtheria, and 1 by Diarrhœa.

The **Epidemic Disease Death-rate** was 0·41, as against 0·40 in the previous year, and a nil rate in 1907.

The **Infant Mortality**, i.e., the number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 registered births was 63, as compared with 46 in the previous year, and 65 in 1907.

During the year 1909, the birth-rate in England and Wales taken as a whole, was 25·6 per 1,000 of the population, which is 0·9 per 1,000 below the rate in 1908, and lower than the rate in any other year on record.

The death-rate in 1909 was 14·5 per 1,000, which was 0·2 per 1,000 below the rate in 1908, and lower than the rate in any other year on record.

The rate of mortality among infants under one year of age per 1,000 registered births was 109, which is 11 per 1,000 below the rate in 1908. The rate in 1909 was lower than in any other year on record.

The Epidemic disease death-rate was 1·12 per 1,000 living, against 1·77, 1·28, and 1·34 respectively in the three preceeding years.

The death-rate for this **District** is 2·1 per 1,000 higher than that for England and Wales for the corresponding period. This rise need not cause any uneasiness as considerable fluctuations must necessarily occur in rates when the population dealt with is small. It should further be noted that of the total 80 deaths, 35 were of persons over 65 years of age, while the birth-rate is ·6 *higher* than that for the country generally.

The Epidemic disease death-rate and the infant mortality are very satisfactory, being respectively 0·71 and 46 below the rates for England and Wales.

A. NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Under the provisions of the Infectious Disease (Notification) Acts, 1889 and 1899, the following diseases are compulsorily notifiable in the District, viz: Small-pox, Cholera, Diphtheria, Membranous Croup, Erysipelas, the Disease known as Scarlet Fever or Scarlatina, and the Fevers known by any of the following names: Typhus, Enteric or Typhoid, Relapsing, Continued, and Puerperal.

Only seven cases occurred during the year, as against 11 in 1908, and consisted of two cases each of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Enteric Fever, and 1 case of Erysipelas.

Small-pox.—No cases occurred throughout the year.

Scarlet Fever.—Only two non-fatal cases of this disease were notified, as compared with 1 in the previous year. They occurred—1 in January at Woodchurch, and 1 in June at Appledore. The patients were both girls aged 3 and 5 years respectively.

Diphtheria fell from nine cases and one death in 1908 to two cases (one fatal) in 1909. Both patients were children aged 3 and 6 years, belonging to the same family, and were notified in March from Appledore, the elder child dying on the day it was notified.

Enteric Fever.—Two cases of this disease were reported. There were none in the previous year.

The first case, a boy aged 7 years, was notified in April at Appledore, and the other, an adult male, was reported in September from Kennardington. Both recovered.

Erysipelas.—One non-fatal case (an adult female) was notified in August from Biddenden.

Puerperal Fever.—No cases occurred throughout the year.

Tuberculosis in all its forms caused 9 deaths during the year, as compared with 5 in 1908. Of these, 7 deaths were certified as due to Phthisis (consumption of the lungs) as against 5 in 1908. The death-rate from all forms of the disease was 1·87, and the phthisis death-rate 1·45 per 1,000 of population.

The death-rate in this District from all forms of the disease in 1908 and the Phthisis death-rate were 1·02 per 1,000 of population, as compared with rates of 1·58 and 1·11 for England and Wales in that year. The comparative figures for 1909 for the country generally are not yet available.

Phthisis is voluntarily notifiable in the District, but no cases were notified to me under this system.

The Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1908, provide for the compulsory notification by Medical Officers of Poor Law Institutions and by District Poor Law Medical Officers to the Medical Officers of Health acting for Sanitary Districts of all cases of Phthisis occurring among inmates of Poor Law Institutions, and also among poor persons in receipt of parish relief in private houses, also the notification by Superintending Officers of Poor Law Institutions to Medical Officers of Health of the District of any person leaving an Institution who has been notified as suffering from Phthisis. Two cases were so brought to my notice during the year, both of poor persons residing in private houses.

In addition to the card system mentioned in my last report, I have now procured a register which is suitable and useful for keeping records of the cases.

I advised Your Council to procure a supply of the following leaflets and posters for distribution, and those considered most suitable were purchased.

- (a) A card "Hints for Prevention."
- (b) A leaflet of "Facts and Suggestions."
- (c) An illustrated poster regarding consumption (used by permission of the New York State Department of Health.)
- (d) The same as an illustrated card.
- (e) The same as an illustrated sheet.

These should be extremely useful in bringing home to a patient the precautions which should be observed in order to prevent the infection of other members of the family, and also in illustrating to healthy persons those conditions which tend to cause the disease.

Disinfection of the premises or rooms occupied by patients is carried out after death, and also when necessary in the case of notification of persons suffering from the disease, and the above literature circulated.

B NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

It is satisfactory to be able to again record that no deaths resulted from **Measles** or **Whooping-cough**.

Diarrhœa.—Only one death resulted from this disease in June at Woodchurch.

Influenza was the cause of the death of a child aged 6 years in the beginning of March at Appledore.

Common Lodging Houses.—There are still no Common lodging houses in the District.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.—There are now 197 entries on the register, and the following table shows how the premises are distributed over the Rural area, and how the businesses are classified :—

PARISH.		COW-KEEPERS.	DAIRY-MEN.	PURVEY-ORS.	COW-KEEPERS & DAIRY-MEN.	DAIRY-MEN AND PURVEYORS.	TOTAL.
Appledore	... ..	2	8	..	...	...	10
Biddenden	.. ...	3	45	...	...	1	49
High Halden	... ..	4	27	1	1	1	34
Kennardington	... ...	...	2	1	..	3	6
Newenden	... ..	...	..	..	...	1	1
Rolvenden	... ...	2	8	8	1	8	27
Stone	... ...	..	12	3	...	3	18
Wittersham	.. ...	..	11	2	1	4	18
Woodchurch	... ..	1	24	6	...	3	34
Totals	... ..	12	137	21	3	24	197

There is one less on the Register than in 1908, a purveyor of milk at Rolvenden having given up business.

A large proportion of the dairy premises are small farms on which only two or three cows are kept, and it is often a very difficult matter to get necessary structural alterations carried out without entailing a somewhat heavy burden upon the occupiers.

Considerable improvements, however, have been gradually carried out, and some are still in progress.

One of the commonest preventible defects is the accumulation of large quantities of manure close to the doors of the cowsheds, which, in warm weather particularly, must cause a deterioration in the keeping properties of the milk.

Slaughter Houses.—There are nine slaughter houses in the Council's area; at Appledore 1, Biddenden 2, High Halden 1, Rolvenden 2, Wittersham 1, Woodchurch 2.

No special complaint has arisen with respect to these during the past year, but they could be controlled better if, as I suggested last year, bye-laws were adopted for this class of premises.

Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.—The following is the classified list of premises which contain one less than last year, one bakehouse at Wittersham having been closed :—

		Factories.	Workshops.		Total.
		Millers.	Bake-houses	Laundries.	
Appledore		...	2	...	2
Biddenden	..	...	1	...	1
High Halden	...	1	2	...	3
Rolvenden	...	..	2	1	3
Wittersham	...	1	2	..	3
Woodchurch	...	...	2	...	2
Totals	..	2	11	1	14

The work is carried on under very good conditions, and no action has been required except requests for limewashing bake-houses which have been readily complied with.

No lists of outworkers have been received.

Section 22, of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, has not been declared to be in force in this District.

The necessary supervision and inspection is entrusted to Mr. Turner, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

Elementary Schools and School Closures.—It was considered necessary to advise the closure of the Biddenden Church of England School (No 35) from June 7th to June 25th on account of the prevalence of measles among the scholars.

In October a Memorandum was issued, jointly in the names of the Chief Medical Officers of the Local Government Board and the Board of Education, to Medical Officers of Health and School Medical Officers upon Public Health Administration for the prevention of the spread of infectious diseases among children attending public elementary schools, with special reference to the circumstances in which the closure of the schools, or the exclusion of individual scholars, may be necessary.

This important Memorandum is an enlarged and revised edition of a similar one issued by the Local Government Board in January, 1908, and is divided into three parts.

Part 1. deals with the code requirements for school closure and exclusion of scholars; and the co-ordination of work of the Medical Officer of Health, of the School Medical Officer, and of other School Officers. Part 2. recommends principles of action on the occurrence of infectious diseases at elementary schools, and Part 3. gives rules of action in respect of particular diseases and rules of official procedure.

It is evidently desirable that working arrangements should be satisfactorily established between the Public Health and the School Authorities if the best results are to be obtained in prevention of the spread of infectious disease in the schools themselves and in the scholars' houses.

Refuse Removal is not undertaken by the District Council in any of the constituent parishes as, from the circumstances and situation of the villages, such a procedure is not necessary.

Drainage.—It is proposed to continue the existing sewer at Wittersham for a distance of some 700 yards to an outfall where the sewage can be treated by tanks and bacteria beds.

Adoptive Acts.—Neither the parts of the Public Health Acts Amendment Acts of 1890 and 1907, applicable to Rural Districts, nor the Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890, have been adopted.

Hop-picking.—Owing to the amount of “grubbing” which has taken place, and the short picking season in 1909, very few other than home dwellers were required. On enquiring, Mr. Turner found that only 13 hop-growers employed “foreign” labour. The water supplies were found to be very short and unsatisfactory at several of the farms.

Hop-picking bye-laws are not in force in the District.

Bye-laws and Regulations.—Bye-laws with respect to Tents, Vans, Sheds, and similar structures have been in force since September 6th, 1898, and Regulations made under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order since September 30th, 1905.

It has been necessary to resort to **legal proceedings** during the past year with regard to any matter connected with the public health.

The health conditions of this District were at the end of the year excellent; not a single case of infectious disease having been notified during the last quarter of the year.

Mr. Turner's Report on the sanitary work carried out by him during the year, the statistical tables required by the Local Government Board, and the table provided by the Secretary of State for recording action taken under the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, are appended.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES SCOTT TEW.

March 30th, 1910.

To the Chairman and Members of the

Tenterden Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Report for the year ending December 31st, 1909.

As Inspector of Nuisances 95 Inspections were made and 30 Nuisances found to exist. Notices to abate were served and 27 complied with the Order.

The huts and places used by "foreign" hop-pickers were in fairly good condition.

The premises inspected under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order were satisfactory.

Under the Factory and Workshops Act 28 inspections were made.

Your obedient Servant,

W. L. C. TURNER.

January 18th, 1910.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1909 and previous years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.			TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.		Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.		Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.		NET DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Number	Rate.	Under 1 year of age.		At all ages.	Number.	Rate.	10.	11.	12.	13.	Number.	Rate.
				Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered									
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.		
1899	6296	127	20.1	14	118	91	14.4	..	...	7	98	15.5		
1900	6276	138	22.0	13	94	80	12.7	...	...	13	93	14.8		
1901	5523	134	24.2	8	50	69	12.4	...	...	10	79	14.3		
1902	5408	124	22.9	9	72	66	12.2	...	...	11	77	14.2		
1903	5317	118	22.1	12	101	65	12.2	...	...	9	74	13.9		
1904	5228	129	24.6	18	139	68	13.0	...	...	9	77	14.7		
1905	5141	139	27.0	11	79	91	17.7	...	...	11	102	19.8		
1906	5055	121	23.9	6	49	58	11.4	...	...	4	62	12.2		
1907	4970	122	24.5	8	65	60	12.0	...	...	12	72	14.4		
1908	4887	128	26.1	6	46	65	13.3	...	...	4	69	14.1		
Averages for years 1899-1908.	5410	128	23.7	10	81	71	13.1	...	...	9	80	14.7		
1909	4806	126	26.2	8	63	74	15.3	...	...	6	80	16.		

Area of District in acres
(exclusive of area covered by Water).

38,247

Total population at all ages
Number of Inhabited houses
Average number of persons per house

5,523
1,316
4

At
Census
of
1901

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District,

Union Workhouse Tenderden, in Urban District.

Is the Union Workhouse within the District?

No.

TABLE III.
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during
the Year 1909.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards
Small-pox ...	...	...	..	..	...	...	...
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	2	...	1	1	...	...	...
Erisipelas ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Scarlet fever ...	2	...	1	1	..	...	...
Typhus fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Enteric fever ...	2	...	...	1	...	1	...
Relapsing fever ...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Continued fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poor Law cases ...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...
Totals ...	9	...	2	5	...	2	...

ISOLATION HOSPITAL—Nil.

SCHEDULE B.

1909.

Causes of Death.	All Ages.	Under 1	1-5.	5-15.	15-25	25-65.	65 and upwards.	Deaths in Public Institutions in the district whether of Residents or Non-residents
Small-pox ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Typhus Fever ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Epidemic Influenza ...	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Whooping-cough ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria Membranous Croup	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Croup ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Asiatic Cholera ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoea, Dysentery ...	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Epidemic or Zymotic Enteritis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteritis	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Other continued Fevers</i> ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
.....
.....
.....
Erysipelas ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Other septic diseases</i> ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
.....
.....
Intermittent Fever and Malarial Cachexia }	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculosis of Meninges ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculosis of Lungs ...	7	..	..	3	2	2	..	..
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	2	..	..	1	1	..	..	..
Alcoholism ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cancer	4	..	..	..	..	3	1	..
Premature Birth	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
Developmental Diseases ...	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Old Age	13	..	..	..	..	..	13	..
Meningitis ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Inflammation and Softening of Brain }	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Organic Diseases of Heart ...	4	..	..	..	..	2	2	..
Acute Bronchitis... ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Chronic Bronchitis	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Lobar (Croupous) Pneumonia ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lobular (Broncho-)Pneumonia	3	2	..	..	..	1	..	..
Diseases of Stomach	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Obstruction of Intestines ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Tumours and Other Affections of Female Genital Organs }	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Accidents and Diseases of Parturition }	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Deaths by Accident or Negligence }	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
Deaths by Suicide	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
Deaths from Ill-defined causes	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
All other Causes	28	3	1	..	..	12	12	..
ALL CAUSES	80	8	4	5	3	25	35	..

TABLE V.
INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1909.
Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under
One Year of Age.

Causes of Death.		Under 1 Week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All Causes.	Certified	...	3	...	...	3	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	8
	Uncertified	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
i. Common infectious Diseases.	Small-pox	...	..	..	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..
	Chicken-pox	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..
	Measles	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..
	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..
	Diphtheria (including Membranous	..	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..
	Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..
	Whooping Cough	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..
ii. Diarrhoeal Disease <i>See Notes to Table IV.</i>	Diarrhoea all forms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..
	Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..
	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..
	Catarrh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..
iii. Wasting Diseases.	Premature Birth	..	3	...	...	3	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	3
	Congenital Defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..
	<i>See notes to Table IV</i>																	
	Injury at Birth	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..
	Want of Breast-milk, Starvation	..	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..
	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..
iv. Tuberculous Diseases	Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..
	<i>See notes to Table IV</i>																	
	Tuberculous Peritonitis: Tabes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..
	Mesenterica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..
	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..
v. Other Causes.	<i>See Notes to Table IV</i>																	
	Erysipelas	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..
	Syphilis	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..
	Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..
	Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..
	Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	3
	Bronchitis	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..
	Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..
	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2
	Suffocation, over-lying	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..
	Other causes																	
			3			3	1	1	1	1					1			8

Population estimated to middle of 1909, 4,806

Births in the year { legitimate 121
illegitimate 5
Deaths „ { legitimate infants 7
illegitimate „ 1
Deaths from all causes at all ages 80.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1909.

on the administration of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, in connection
with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES, AND HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION of FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES

*Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors
of Nuisances.*

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspection. (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	4	.....	.....
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	24	.....	.....
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	...	.....	.....
Total	28		

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts</i>				
Want of Cleanliness ..	1	1		
Total	1	1		

Section 22 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890,
has not been adopted.

3.—HOME WORK.

Nil.

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year. (1)				Number. (2)
Important classes of workshops, such as workshop bakehouses may be enumerated here.	{	Factories (Corn Mills)...	...	2
		Workshops (Bakehouses)	...	11
		„ (Laundry)...	...	1
	Total number of workshops on Register			14

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Nil.

*J. S. TEW,**Medical Officer of Health.**March 30th, 1910.*

